Increase in airfares

3258. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to increase international and domestic airfares; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) In order to partly offset the increase in the cost of Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) and other operating costs, Indian Airlines has increased the domestic fares by 15% *w.e.f.* 26th March, 2003. Some restructuring of the fares has also been carried out in order to minimise the inter-regional variations. In case of international air travel, Air India has increased the fares by only 5–7% across the board in all regions and Indian Airlines by 7–18% from India to South East Asia from April, 2003. Besides Air India has also imposed an additional surcharge of US $ 5 on account of increase in ATF prices.This increase has been effected to partly offset the increase in operating cost since the last increase in January 2001.

Concession on carrying human remains from Gulf

3259. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India provides free transportation of human remains and free air ticket for accompanying passenger and maximum of 50 kg personal effects, to help workers in Gulf region who are unable to afford costs;

(b) if so, whether the Air India has commenced the implementation of the above scheme;

(c) whether the facility is also extended by the Indian Airlines; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to extend it in the Indian Airlines also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India provides